

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. As a result of the Notice of Allowability and Examiner's Amendment dated December 18, 2003, claims 7, 8, 19-22, and 28-30 have been allowed and remain pending. Claims 31 and 32 have been added for consideration by the Examiner.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

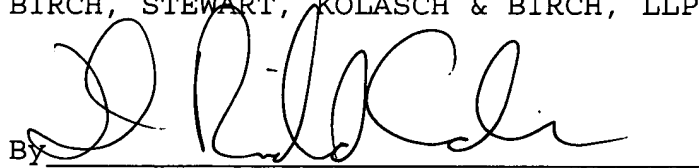
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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